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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.: 09/736,878 Confirmation No.: 7632  
Applicant(s): Ellerbrock et al.  
Filed: December 14, 2000  
Art Unit: 2155  
Examiner: Won, Michael Young  
Title: NETWORK CONTROLLER FOR DIGITALLY CONTROLLING REMOTE  
DEVICES VIA A COMMON BUS

Docket No.: 038190/206960  
Customer No.: 00826

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**37 CFR § 1.115**

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment to amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.